

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: DI SALVO

In re Application of:)
FRANCESCO DI SALVO)
Appl. No.: NOT YET KNOWN)
Filed: SIMULTANEOUSLY HEREWITH)
For: SILVER ALLOYS FOR USE IN MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND MICROSURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE ALLOYS)

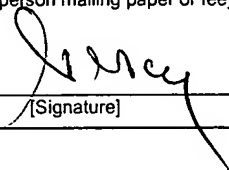
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Express Mail mailing label number: **EL 989473882 US**
Date of Deposit: **December 2, 2003**
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450".

URSULA BESCH

[Name of person mailing paper or fee]


[Signature]

S I R:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the references enclosed herewith as well as the US references cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited documents constitutes prior art against the pending application.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d), so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the issuance of a first office but before issuance of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

☐ The undersigned submits the following statement requesting consideration of this statement:

The undersigned hereby states:

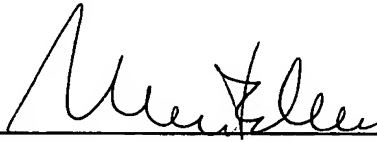
- [] That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- [] That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- [] The fee of \$180.00 set forth in 1.17(p).
- [] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee as set forth in 1.17(p), and any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.
- [] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

The above-identified application discloses and claims an invention patentable over this prior art.

Entry of the references above set forth into the file of the above application is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

Respectfully submitted

By: 
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Attorney's Docket No. DI SALVO	Applicant Francesco di Salvo	Appl. No. NOT YET KNOWN
Filing Date Filed simultaneously herewith	Group	Examiner

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate
	6,544,264	04-08-2003	Levine et al.			
	4,492,231	01-08-1985	Auth			
	5,925,039	07-20-1999	Landingham			
	5,022,932	01-11-1991	Yamada et al.			
	6,139,652	10-31-2000	Carrano et al.			
	5,885,281	02-23-1999	Urueta			
	6,482,076	11-19-2002	Straub et al.			
	5,772,659	06-30-1998	Becker et al.			
	2002/0173787	11-21-2002	Buysse et al.			
	6,482,076	11-19-2002	Straub et al.			
	2003/0018332	01-23-2003	Schmaltz et al.			
	5,697,926	12-16-1997	Weaver			
	5,658,281	08-19-1997	Heard			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	2 033 425 A	05-21-1980	England			
	0 685 565 A1	12-06-1995	Europe			
	2 283 934	05-24-1995	England			
	WO 02/095082	11-28-2002	PCT			
	WO 03/028669	04-10-2003	PCT			
	WO 96/22400	07-25-1996	PCT			
	2 255 348	11-04-1992	England			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Grabco et al.: "Microstructure and Strength Properties of Germanium Microwires for Biomedical Devices", Institute of Applied Physics of Moldavian Academy of Sciences
Examiner:	Date considered:

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

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Filing Date Filed simultaneously herewith	Group	Examiner

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate
	3,669,655	06-13-1972	Cox et al.			
	6,296,637	10-02-2001	Thorne et al.			
	6,293,946	09-25-2001	Thorne			
	2003/0050634	03-13-2003	Ellman et al.			
	2002/0111622	08-15-2002	Khandkar et al.			
	2003/0144653	07-15-2003	Francischelli et al			
	6,557,559	05-06-2003	Eggers et al.			
	2002/0016591	02-07-2002	Levine et al.			
	6,290,501	09-18-2001	Grau et al.			
	6,011,810	01-04-2000	Haller et al			
	6,533,781	03-18-2003	Heim et al.			
	6,206,876	03-27-2001	Levine et al.			
	1,970,319	08-14-1934	Kern			
	6,406,664	06-18-2002	Diamond			
	2002/0187533	12-12-2002	Mross et al.			
	5,037,708	08-06-1991	Davitz			
	4,775,511	10-04-1988	Kono et al.			
	6,132,357	10-17-2000	Sabuda			
	2002/0122741	09-05-2002	Prasad et al.			
	2002/0144956	10-10-2002	Silverstone et al.			
	2003/0139741	07-24-2003	Goble et al.			
	2003/0014050	01-16-2003	Sharkley et al.			
	2002/0010464	01-24-2002	Kirwan, Jr.			
	6,506,267	01-14-2003	Fujiyasu et al.			
	2003/0163125	08-28-2003	Greep			
	2003/0181904	09-25-2003	Levine et al.			

Examiner:**Date considered:**

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